s. No.	Items	Basic Customs Duty (in %age)
8.	Millet	50
9.	Sugar	60 (in addition to a countervail-ing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne.)
10.	Soyabeen Oil refined	45
11.	RBD Palmolein refined	65
12.	Palm Oil, refined	65
13.	Groundnut oil refined	45

New Agriculture Policy

116. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a New Agriculture Policy; and

(b) if so, how the issues relating to improving incentives to producers, rationalizing subsidies, promoting investments and extending protective cover to the poor have been addressed in the New Agriculture Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. The first ever National Agriculture Policy was announced by Government on 28th July, 2000.

(b) The National Agriculture Policy states that Government will endeavour to create a favourable economic environment for increasing capital formation and farmer's own investments by removal of distortions in the incentive regime for agriculture, improving the terms of trade with manufacturing sectors and bringing about external and domestic market reforms, backed by rationalization of domestic tax structure. Commodity-wise strategies and arrangements for protecting the grower from adverse impact of undue price fluctuations

in the world markets and for promoting exports will be formulated. A favourable economic environment and supportive public management system will be created for promotion of agricultural exports. Import duties on manufactured commodities used in agriculture will be rationalized and appropriate tariffs protection will be provided. The domestic agricultural market will be liberalized and all controls and regulations hindering increase in farmers' income will be reviewed and abolished to ensure that agriculturists receive prices commensurate with their efforts.

Public investment for narrowing regional imbalances, accelerating development of supportive infrastructure for agriculture and rural development particularly rural connectivity will be stepped up. Input subsidy reforms will be pursued as a combination of price and institutional reforms to cut down cost of these inputs for agriculture. Resource allocation regime will be reviewed with a view to rechannelizing the available resources from support measures towards asset formation in rural sector.

Private sector investment in agriculture will also be encouraged more particularly in areas like agricultural research, human, resource development, post-harvest management and marketing with a view to reducing post-harvest losses and ensuring a better return to the grower.

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme covering all farmers and all crops throughout the country, with built in provisions for insulating farmers from financial distress caused by natural disasters and making agriculture financially viable, will be made more farmer-specific and effective. Endeavour will be made to provide a package insurance policy for the farmers, right from sowing of the crops to post-harvest operations, including market fluctuations in the prices of agricultural produce.